

Inside
At Ease
 Alternative Education

Republicans realize Bush's role in race

From Associated Press

Republican resistance to George Bush's bid for the White House began crumbling Wednesday as the impact of his fabulous Super Tuesday showing sank in. Democrats Michael Dukakis, Albert Gore and Jesse Jackson savored their own successes while aiming for next week's showdown in Illinois.

Massachusetts Gov. Dukakis and Sen. Gore of Tennessee agreed the nomination struggle would last until the convention next summer. But they quarreled long-distance over which one of them could attract the most voters to the Democratic banner in a campaign against the Republicans.

Bush spent the day in Houston savoring his 16-state primary sweep and the roughly 600 delegates they brought. The outlook for Illinois wasn't bad either, as Gov. James Thompson was backing the vice president and Sen. Bob Dole's own campaign polls gave Bush the lead.

The vice president sounded like he was trying to nudge Dole from the race. He declined his rival's challenge to debate him in Illinois in a telegram that said the time had come to "look ahead to the issues which distinguish us from the Democrats."

"Good luck," he wrote. Dole awoke to a campaign in shambles after losing all 17 Super Tuesday states and conceding, "I've got to win Illinois" to save his candidacy. The Kansas senator visited the hospital in Chicago where he was treated 40 years ago for his crippling World War II wounds, while his se-

Dukakis organized early, spent big to get Texas votes

DALLAS (AP) — Michael Dukakis organized early and spent big to convince Texas voters that the economic program dubbed the "Massachusetts Miracle" could mean jobs and tax breaks for them, analysts said Wednesday.

Friends of Vice President George Bush, meanwhile, said they hope Bush's sweep of all 111 Texas Republican delegates will show that he has guts as well as GOP glory.

Dukakis earned 43 delegates to the national convention based on near-total Super Tuesday returns in Texas, and Jesse Jackson held tight on runner-up with 42 delegates, based on near-complete election returns for the seven Democrats.

Those seven were vying for shares of 197 delegates: 119 awarded

through the primary, 64 through Democratic caucuses and 14 awarded to party officials.

Dukakis "ran a good campaign," said George Christian, former press secretary to Lyndon Johnson and an Austin political consultant.

"He had the strategy of finding his constituency and organizing it," Christian said. "His constituency was the Hispanics and liberals. That was a sufficient number to put him at the top."

Dukakis and Jackson each could pick up as many as 23 of the 64 delegates awarded through the caucus system, according to a projection tabulated by the *Dallas Morning News* and the *Houston Chronicle*, using 202 key precincts of the 6,933 statewide.

senior aides met to discuss wholesale staff reductions.

Dole aside, the vice president's rivals signaled they knew the game was all but over.

Rep. Jack Kemp, humbled by the Super Tuesday voters, scheduled a news conference for Thursday, and sources said he would withdraw from the race.

The Democratic race was just beginning. Delegate leader Dukakis stood only about a quarter of the way

toward the 2,082 convention votes needed to be nominated.

Jackson was the early favorite to win the South Carolina caucuses on Saturday, while he and Sen. Paul Simon looked like favorite son front-runners for next Tuesday's Illinois primary.

Jackson said he was "overcome with a sense of history and joy" after winning primaries in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Mississippi.

Architects of Super Tuesday say primaries were 'success'

AUSTIN (AP) — Super Tuesday was a Texas success, its architects said Wednesday as they sought to knock down what they said were "myths" about their motives.

"One of the myths was that this was designed to elect some Neanderthal Anglo Southerner," said state Sen. Chet Edwards, D-Duncanville and Senate sponsor of the Super Tuesday bill.

The Democratic presidential primary in Texas produced positive results for Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis and Jesse Jackson, the more liberal candidates.

Edwards said that should not distress Texas Democrats who believe that only a conservative can win the White House in November.

"One benefit of Super Tuesday is regardless of who wins, they've been forced to shape their platforms around the concerns of Southerners," Edwards said.

But Republican Gov. Bill Clements seemed pleased that the liberal wing of the Democratic Party prevailed in Texas on Tuesday.

"I thought it worked beautifully," Clements said sarcastically.

Meanwhile, Vice President George Bush, Clements' candidate for president, swept the GOP primary, capturing all 111 Texas delegates.

Former state Sen. John Traeger, who is credited for making Super Tuesday happen across the South, acknowledged that the Democrats who did well in Texas would have difficulty beating Bush here in November.

"I would say if I had to handicap it, with my house and lot and wife on it, right now I'd have to say Bush would appear to have the edge. But I certainly wouldn't concede it to him," Traeger said.

Like Edwards, Traeger denied the Democrats' goal was to use Super Tuesday to help a conservative candidate. The goal, he said, was participation and it appeared to work: The Tuesday primary drew about 2.77 million voters, a state record.

And it drew candidates to Texas, he said.

"They were thicker than fleas on a dog's back," Traeger said.

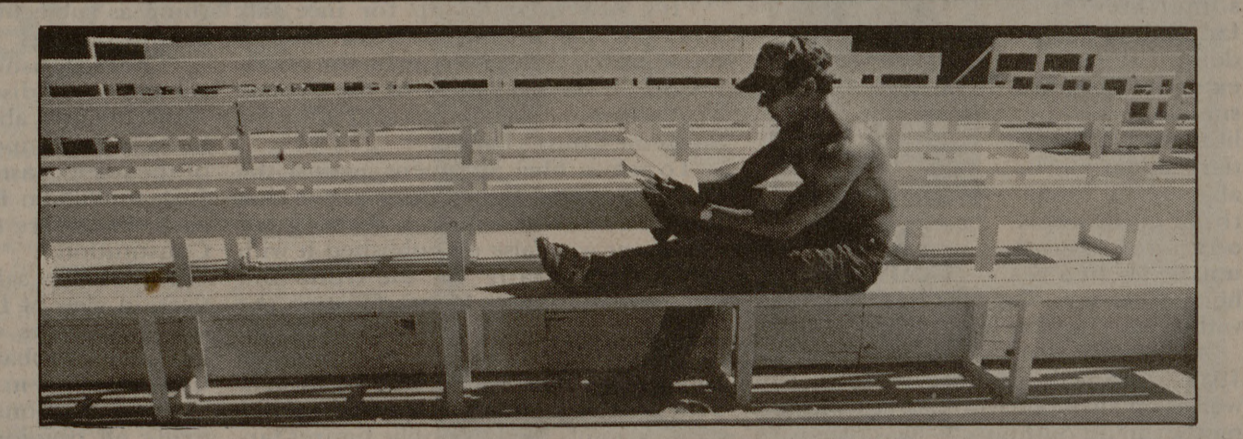
Rep. Clint Hackney, D-Houston and House sponsor of the Super Tuesday bill, said the primary was "a victory for Texas and Texans."

Hackney and Edwards said Super Tuesday took some of the political thunder away from Iowa and New Hampshire, whose early primaries and caucuses traditionally shape the presidential races.

They pointed out that Democrats Rep. Richard Gephardt of Missouri, Sen. Paul Simon of Illinois and Republican Sen. Robert Dole of Kansas did well in those states, but are now struggling.

"No longer can candidates spend all of their time, money and resources in the snows of Iowa," Edwards and Hackney said in their Super Tuesday analysis.

George Christian of Austin, a longtime Democratic strategist, said Iowa and New Hampshire will remain important stops on the presidential trail.



Sunny days
 Senior David Fox studies on the reviewing stand at the Simpson Drill Field before his afternoon class Wednesday. Fox says he studies there often to get some sun.
 Photo by Mike C. Mulvey

Kidney treatment offers non-surgical alternative

By Mark Gee
 Staff Writer

Brazos Valley residents suffering from kidney stones now have access to a non-surgical treatment in College Station that is less painful and less expensive than conventional surgery. The treatment also reduces hospital stay and recuperation time.

Extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy, known as ESWL, is a kidney stone treatment that uses highly pressurized impulses to pulverize kidney stones. The first patient will be treated at Humana Hospital-Brazos Valley the last week in March.

For the treatment, a patient is positioned in a tub of warm water and the impulses are aimed at the kidney stone using two X-ray images. The stone is pulverized with 10 to 15 minutes of impulses. The impulses break up the stone into sand-sized particles without disturbing the surrounding tissue. The sand-sized particles then are passed naturally through the urinary tract.

For most patients, the treatment takes about an hour and a half and the hospital stay is about two and a half days with a day of recuperation at home.

More than 200,000 people worldwide have been treated successfully with ESWL. Of the 600,000 Americans who will suffer from kidney stones this year, 100,000 will require surgery or ESWL.

The ESWL treatment costs about half of what conventional surgery costs, said Marsha Herring, director of marketing and public relations at Humana Hospital-Brazos Valley.

The hospital stay after ESWL treatment is an average of 2.5 days. After traditional surgery, the average hospital stay is 10 to 14 days. Recuperation time with ESWL is reduced from an average of five days to one. Patients who have undergone both surgery and EWSL for kidney stones say the total ESWL treatment is less painful.

Humana Hospital-Brazos Valley joined with four other Humana hospitals to offer the service to South Texans. A \$2.1 million mobile unit

rotates among the Humana Hospitals in College Station, Baytown, Clear Lake, Corpus Christi and Pasadena.

The mobile unit will be available on Fridays to local doctors who have completed training in hospital programs certified by the American Urology Association.

"We feel that for relatively new, more costly technology such as the lithotripter, the mobile approach is by far the most practical alternative," Tom McNeill, managing director of Humana Lithotripsy Centers, said. He said since the unit is mobile, it will have a higher utilization because it will serve the five hospitals and more than 100 cities and towns with a population base of more than one million.

Harold Bryant, a Blue Cross & Blue Shield representative, said, "This type of technology enables hospitals to deliver a high level of care while at the same time reducing cost to the patient. It's what the health care industry needs to hold down costs."

The self-contained unit is housed in a 48-foot by 8-foot trailer that is linked with each hospital's facility.

Dr. Richard Morgan, a nephrologist in Bryan, said he is glad to see lithotripsy offered locally because it rapidly is becoming the treatment of choice. He said lithotripsy is usually successful and is less traumatic than surgery.

Two years ago, he sent an A&M student to Houston for the lithotripsy treatment.

"She suffered from terrible episodes when she passed stones," Morgan said. "It was a recurring problem. The treatment in Houston really cleaned up her kidneys and she has made very good progress since."

Since the kidney is not damaged by the treatment, the procedure can be repeated for those who suffer from recurring renal stones.

Dr. Michael Hermans, a urologist at the Scott & White multi-specialty clinic, said that even though ESWL is a major breakthrough in the treatment of kidney stones, it will not be

able to be used for all patients. Hermans, one of the doctors who will be using the mobile unit, is also an associate professor of surgery at the Texas A&M Medical School.

"ESWL is good for stones that are positioned high in the kidney," he said. "But if the stone has dropped, a more traditional method might have to be used."

He said the treatment is used on both children and adults. But pregnant women with kidney stones cannot be treated with ESWL, he said.

Hermans said the alternatives to using ESWL include passing the stone naturally or surgery.

Although ESWL is less painful than traditional surgery, he said, there is still pain involved.

"It is like getting hit in the side a thousand times with a fist," Hermans said. "The first couple of times it doesn't hurt that much, but after awhile it does. The patient will be sore for a couple of days."

But he said patients who have had kidney stones removed using both surgery and ESWL prefer the ESWL treatment. Anesthesia is used during both treatments.

Hermans said the majority of patients treated with ESWL have no side effects but researchers are studying why some patients are developing high blood pressure after the treatment. He said a medical journal reported that 8 percent of patients develop high blood pressure.

He said it is not known if the high blood pressure is due to the treatment or other circumstances. He added that researchers speculate that if high blood pressure develops because of the treatment, it might be caused by the bruising of the kidney during treatment. He said one research goal is to be able to distinguish those patients who have the potential of developing high blood pressure from the treatment. He said most patients have no complications.

The treatment was developed by Dornier Medical Inc., a division of a West German aerospace corporation.

Army crews work to retrieve bodies following collision

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (AP) — Army crews worked Wednesday to retrieve the last eight bodies of 17 soldiers killed when two helicopters on a night training mission collided, then plunged 250 feet to the ground and caught fire.

The UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters from Fort Campbell spewed wreckage for hundreds of yards and charred the partially wooded, gently rolling site six miles from the choppers' air field. "One aircraft is located in the trees," Maj. Randy Schoel, Fort Campbell spokesman, said. "One aircraft is right on the edge of a clearing."

Four bodies remained in the wreckage of each helicopter Wednesday afternoon, Schoel said. He earlier had said all the bodies were retrieved.

The Blackhawk, one of the newer helicopters used by the Army, Air Force and Marine Corps, has been grounded four times in three years. Last summer officials said about 40 people had been killed in crashes of the helicopter since 1978.

Schoel said the crash occurred on the Kentucky-Tennessee bor-

der during a "routine night mission," and left no survivors.

"Obviously, there's an element of risk in everything we do," Schoel said. "We train up to a standard that reduces that risk to an absolute minimum. Yes it can be, but it's not necessarily, more dangerous to fly at night."

The helicopters were flying at 92 mph air speed and about 250 feet from the ground when they collided, Schoel said. One of three helicopters flying in formation was hit by a fourth, William Harralson, deputy public affairs officer at the fort, said.

"There were three aircraft in formation, if you want to say ducks in a row, headed east, and another who was flying solo, hit one of those," Harralson said. "There can be 10 or 12 battalion-sized groups working at Fort Campbell at one time."

"We have been told by the tower that the weather was good."

One helicopter crashed on the Tennessee side of the border, the other in Kentucky. Although the soldiers were carrying personal weapons, such as M-16 rifles, the helicopters were not armed.

Student Senate disagrees with test schedule changes

By Jeff Pollard
 Staff Writer

The Student Senate, at its meeting on Wednesday, unanimously passed a resolution expressing its dissatisfaction with the changes made by the Faculty Senate on the Senior finals compromise.

"The proposition was radically amended by the Faculty Senate," said Speaker of the Senate Jay Hays. "There seemed to be some confusion. The senators thought they were acting in conjunction with our original proposal."

Hays, who was one of the students present at the meeting on Monday, said that, in trying to express his opinion to the contrary, he was not recognized to speak because of poor lighting in the room.

The Faculty proposal calls for dead week to begin on Wednesday, April 27 and end on Tuesday, May 3.

There would be no class on May 4 and finals would be Thursday, Friday, Monday and Tuesday (May 5, 6, 9 and 10). Graduation would then be on the weekend of May 13 and 14.

The Student Senate said the compromise's purpose was to develop a schedule that would assure the students of having a full five-day dead week and reduce the number of days between the last final taken by un-

dergraduates and the beginning of graduation-related events.

Hays said the Faculty proposal would shorten dead week by two more days and he was worried that dead week would eventually be ignored altogether. He also said that the extra two days between the end of finals and graduation would reduce the number of people who would normally attend these events had they been on campus.

"The Faculty Senate proposal does nothing to keep a relatively active campus for graduation," said Tom Black, Chairman of the Academic Affairs Committee. "The campus will be basically dead except for the birds."

The statement that was passed stated that the Student Senate does not support the amended resolution passed by the Faculty Senate and that they stand behind the Student/Faculty compromise calling for Seniors to take final on Monday and Tuesday of finals week while other undergraduates take them all week.

Hays also explained to senators that the Senior finals changes still must be approved by Dr. Vandiver and would only affect finals for this semester. He said that a committee of faculty, students and other administrators has been formed to find a long-term solution to the problem.

The other resolution considered by senators dealt with possible ques-

tions to be included in the course/instructor evaluations that are completed by students at the end of every semester. The questions for the new standardized evaluation form will be chosen by various people on campus. Five will be chosen by students, five by faculty, four by the deans and department heads of those colleges involved and three by the administration.

The resolution, which was introduced by Black, was to approve the five questions allocated to students. After some discussion and one failed vote, the resolution was sent back to the Academic Affairs committee for changes to be made in the questions.

Debate centered around the redundancy of two questions that dealt with the amount of course work in a class.

In other matters: • Mason Hogan, student body president, announced that the blood drive took in 2,951 units of blood. He said they had hoped to raise 100 units over last fall, but they ended up 15 units under last semester's total.

• Hogan also said that over 3,000 students completed about 125 projects during Big Event on March 5. He commended the committee for starting out with no allocated funds and ending with about \$400 left over for next year.

Lawmakers ask Meese to step down

WASHINGTON (AP) — Eleven Democrats on the House Judiciary Committee asked Attorney General Edwin Meese III on Wednesday to step down temporarily until independent counsel investigations into his conduct are completed.

Meese spokesman Terry Eastland said the attorney general would not comply because, "No one should be urged to step down from a government position simply because that person is under investigation."

The lawmakers made their request in a letter to Meese, and five of them held a news conference to elaborate on their remarks.

Rep. Barney Frank of Massachusetts, one of the signers, denied that the signers had a political motive, saying, "Ed Meese is the best thing to happen to the Democratic Party."

Another signer, Rep. Bruce Morrison of Connecticut, said the standard Meese is setting for ethical conduct is "not in the slammer."

Meese has been under criminal investigation by independent counsel James McKay since last May 11. McKay has been examining Meese's involvement with scandal-plagued Wedtech Corp., and with a \$1 billion Iraqi oil pipeline project.